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## **County Employment and Wages in Tennessee – First Quarter 2019**

Employment rose in each of Tennessee's six large counties from March 2018 to March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment gains ranged from 4.0 percent in Williamson County to 1.2 percent in Shelby County. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.4 percent from March 2018 to March 2019 as 298 of the 355 largest U.S. counties had increases. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, with a gain of 5.8 percent. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Among the largest counties in Tennessee, employment was highest in Davidson County (503,700) in March 2019, followed by Shelby County (498,300). Together, Tennessee's six large counties accounted for 57.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 146.5 million in March 2019.

Average weekly wages increased in 4 of Tennessee's 6 largest counties from the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019. Williamson County (7.4 percent) had the largest over-the-year wage gain, followed by Rutherford County (5.1 percent). Williamson County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at \$1,389, followed by Davidson County at \$1,222. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.8 percent over the year, growing to \$1,184 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 1](#).)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 89 counties in Tennessee with 2018 average annual employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,342 to \$504. (See [table 2](#).)

### **Large county wage changes**

In the first quarter of 2019, 4 of Tennessee's 6 largest counties had over-the-year wage gains above the national average of 2.8 percent. Williamson County (7.4 percent) had the highest wage gain and ranked fifth among the 355 largest counties nationwide. In contrast, Knox and Davidson counties had over-the-year wage declines, down 2.7 and 0.5 percent, respectively. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 325 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage gain at 10.2 percent, followed by Bay, FL (9.3 percent).

Of the 355 largest counties, 28 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-7.6 percent), followed by Olmsted, MN (-5.1 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in 3 of Tennessee's 6 largest counties placed in the top half of the national ranking among the 355 largest counties in the first quarter of 2019. Williamson and Davidson Counties had average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$1,184 and ranked in the top 100 nationwide at 43<sup>rd</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Shelby County (\$1,104) ranked 130<sup>th</sup>.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$1,184) in 92 of the 355 largest counties in the first quarter of 2019. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,153, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,759), and Santa Clara, CA (\$2,758).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 263 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2019. Cameron, TX, reported the lowest wage (\$648), followed by Horry, SC (\$652), and Hidalgo, TX (\$662).

### **Average weekly wages in Tennessee's smaller counties**

Among the 89 counties in Tennessee—those with 2018 annual employment levels below 75,000—only Roane County (\$1,342) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,184. Hancock County reported the lowest average weekly in the state, averaging \$504 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 95 counties in Tennessee were considered, 7 reported average weekly wages below \$600, 26 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 35 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 14 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 13 had wages at or above \$900. (See [chart 1](#).)

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2018 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm).

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**The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.**

## **QCEW Data Now Available in Census Business Builder Version 2.6**

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data is now available in Census Business Builder Version 2.6, a suite of U.S. Census Bureau web tools that assists business owners and regional analysts in data-driven decision making. As the first collaboration of this type between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, this data-sharing project makes data more accessible for local users and enhances the efficiency of digital service delivery. The Census Business Builder is available at: [www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html](http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html).

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 6 largest counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2019**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	146,497.6	1.4	--	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Tennessee.....	3,004.2	2.0	--	996	28	1.9	42
Davidson, TN.....	503.7	3.4	19	1,222	80	-0.5	339
Hamilton, TN.....	206.4	1.8	94	996	201	3.3	110
Knox, TN.....	239.7	1.3	150	952	235	-2.7	353
Rutherford, TN.....	132.4	1.6	118	948	239	5.1	31
Shelby, TN.....	498.3	1.2	159	1,104	130	2.9	144
Williamson, TN.....	137.8	4.0	6	1,389	43	7.4	5

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2019**

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2) .....	146,497,599	\$1,184
Tennessee .....	3,004,216	996
Anderson .....	39,501	1,168
Bedford .....	16,274	736
Benton .....	4,205	652
Bledsoe .....	2,189	674
Blount .....	50,416	895
Bradley .....	41,753	813
Campbell .....	9,031	679
Cannon .....	2,218	653
Carroll .....	6,836	651
Carter .....	11,360	675
Cheatham .....	8,552	890
Chester .....	3,720	651
Claiborne .....	9,226	662
Clay .....	1,409	600
Cocke .....	7,714	664
Coffee .....	27,058	900
Crockett .....	3,612	777
Cumberland .....	17,515	648
Davidson .....	503,719	1,222
Decatur .....	3,358	718
De Kalb .....	5,701	742
Dickson .....	18,037	740
Dyer .....	15,484	773
Fayette .....	7,967	863
Fentress .....	5,199	594
Franklin .....	11,590	728
Gibson .....	14,395	700
Giles .....	10,189	743
Grainger .....	3,796	714
Greene .....	25,063	743
Grundy .....	2,145	524
Hamblen .....	32,105	783
Hamilton .....	206,358	996
Hancock .....	944	504
Hardeman .....	6,831	743
Hardin .....	8,090	865
Hawkins .....	12,878	796
Haywood .....	4,819	773
Henderson .....	7,997	795
Henry .....	11,474	737
Hickman .....	3,645	705
Houston .....	1,511	607
Humphreys .....	5,962	978
Jackson .....	1,388	611
Jefferson .....	13,354	790
Johnson .....	4,162	766
Knox .....	239,672	952
Lake .....	1,635	659
Lauderdale .....	6,586	732
Lawrence .....	10,796	673
Lewis .....	2,647	592
Lincoln .....	10,370	708
Loudon .....	15,913	837
McMinn .....	19,017	859

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2019 - Continued**

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
McNairy .....	5,493	636
Macon.....	4,995	637
Madison.....	59,447	835
Marion .....	7,333	725
Marshall.....	9,882	795
Maury .....	37,099	954
Meigs.....	2,208	743
Monroe .....	14,437	755
Montgomery .....	55,377	754
Moore .....	2,191	838
Morgan .....	3,016	691
Obion.....	10,951	700
Overton.....	5,051	705
Perry.....	1,880	594
Pickett.....	973	712
Polk .....	2,068	638
Putnam .....	36,915	746
Rhea .....	10,456	829
Roane.....	19,129	1,342
Robertson.....	21,296	742
Rutherford .....	132,411	948
Scott .....	5,785	595
Sequatchie .....	3,082	606
Sevier .....	46,796	585
Shelby .....	498,315	1,104
Smith .....	5,289	819
Stewart .....	2,737	945
Sullivan.....	68,436	962
Sumner.....	55,425	840
Tipton.....	11,591	694
Trousdale.....	1,954	749
Unicoi .....	4,816	874
Union .....	2,463	651
Van Buren.....	794	620
Warren.....	12,626	795
Washington.....	61,648	782
Wayne .....	3,750	627
Weakley.....	11,183	654
White .....	7,420	663
Williamson .....	137,761	1,389
Wilson.....	47,111	808

**Footnotes**

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2019**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	146,497.6	1.4	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Alabama	1,978.0	1.6	944	38	2.5	32
Alaska	312.4	0.3	1,108	18	3.3	9
Arizona	2,895.1	2.5	1,056	22	3.0	21
Arkansas	1,218.5	0.7	896	45	2.2	38
California	17,436.4	1.8	1,401	5	3.8	4
Colorado	2,690.3	1.9	1,231	9	4.8	2
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.0	1,487	4	2.3	34
Delaware	444.1	1.3	1,199	13	-0.1	51
District of Columbia	773.5	0.5	1,921	1	0.2	49
Florida	8,894.3	2.1	1,015	26	2.7	25
Georgia	4,488.6	2.1	1,121	17	2.6	28
Hawaii	658.1	-0.4	1,006	27	3.4	8
Idaho	732.3	2.7	828	50	2.3	34
Illinois	5,912.0	0.1	1,275	8	2.7	25
Indiana	3,059.1	1.2	963	33	0.9	48
Iowa	1,527.1	0.1	942	39	2.3	34
Kansas	1,379.3	0.6	940	40	3.2	12
Kentucky	1,882.6	0.6	920	41	2.2	38
Louisiana	1,916.8	-0.1	954	34	2.5	32
Maine	599.8	1.2	919	42	3.1	16
Maryland	2,670.3	0.9	1,228	10	1.7	45
Massachusetts	3,558.1	1.1	1,561	3	3.5	7
Michigan	4,307.4	0.6	1,078	20	0.1	50
Minnesota	2,840.8	0.5	1,203	12	2.3	34
Mississippi	1,129.8	0.4	779	51	1.8	43
Missouri	2,788.4	0.5	986	31	2.6	28
Montana	458.8	0.9	844	49	3.1	16
Nebraska	965.6	0.1	917	43	2.2	38
Nevada	1,392.2	3.0	992	29	1.5	47
New Hampshire	656.2	1.2	1,156	15	3.1	16
New Jersey	4,040.2	1.3	1,399	6	1.7	45
New Mexico	825.4	1.3	890	47	3.2	12
New York	9,453.5	1.5	1,639	2	2.6	28
North Carolina	4,458.5	2.0	1,054	23	3.2	12
North Dakota	414.3	1.5	1,021	25	3.3	9
Ohio	5,363.2	0.7	1,035	24	3.0	21
Oklahoma	1,617.0	1.1	953	35	4.3	3
Oregon	1,921.9	1.3	1,060	21	3.3	9
Pennsylvania	5,850.3	1.1	1,146	16	2.8	24
Rhode Island	474.7	0.8	1,104	19	1.8	43
South Carolina	2,110.0	2.0	901	44	3.0	21
South Dakota	419.0	0.4	865	48	2.7	25
Tennessee	3,004.2	2.0	996	28	1.9	42
Texas	12,455.6	2.2	1,204	11	3.1	16
Utah	1,501.4	3.0	978	32	3.1	16
Vermont	309.1	0.4	950	36	3.7	5
Virginia	3,896.9	1.2	1,186	14	2.1	41
Washington	3,371.1	1.8	1,368	7	4.9	1
West Virginia	687.1	0.3	896	45	3.2	12
Wisconsin	2,838.9	0.1	992	29	2.6	28
Wyoming	269.0	1.9	948	37	3.7	5
Puerto Rico	875.8	2.2	553	(3)	-2.1	(3)
Virgin Islands	36.6	9.6	966	(3)	-1.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

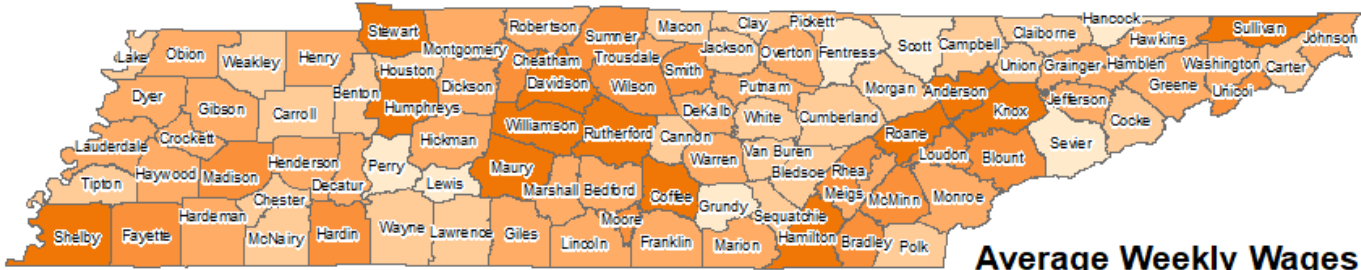
(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.



Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Tennessee, first quarter 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Average Weekly Wages**

**(U.S. average wage = \$1,184)**

- \$900 or higher**
- \$800 – \$899**
- \$700 – \$799**
- \$600 – \$699**
- \$599 or lower**